



Board-to-Board, July 2022

A monthly report from the Albemarle County School Board to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

School Board approves appointment of several new principals—At its July 14 meeting, the School Board approved the appointment of Dr. Staci England as the new principal of Crozet Elementary School. England, who has served as the principal of Scottsville Elementary School since 2018, succeeds Gwedette Crummie, who retired from the school division last month. Art Stow, Stone-Robinson Elementary School’s associate vice principal, will move to Scottsville as the interim principal.

England will be leading a school that will be much different from the facility that opened more than 30 years ago and was built to accommodate fewer than 400 students. Over the past three decades, the school’s enrollment has been relatively stable. The new Crozet that will open in August, however, will be larger by 35,000 square feet with a building addition that includes 17 new classrooms, three resource classrooms and expanded cafeteria and library spaces. The school’s capacity will increase to 680 students, including 219 former Brownsville students who earlier this year were relocated to Crozet.

In her new role, England will be guiding Crozet through a transition not unlike the transformation she led at Scottsville, which underwent its own facility expansion last fall and in recent years, has seen its enrollment increase with the relocation of students from the former Yancey Elementary School.

As Scottsville’s interim principal, Stow will be returning to a part of the county with which he is well familiar. For 13 years, between 2005 and 2018, he was the principal of nearby Red Hill Elementary School, where he led that school through a facility expansion. A champion of innovating programming, Stow was an early advocate of a curriculum that emphasized the importance of project-based learning for elementary school students. In 2018, he moved to Lakeside Middle School as its associate principal before joining Stone-Robinson this past school year in the same role. At both schools, he was a mentor to new principals.

England began her career in education in Utah as a university teaching assistant, and her first position in Virginia was directing youth development programs for 4-H. Previously, she taught science for seven years. England received her bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University, her master’s degree from Utah State, and both her Education Specialist (Ed.S.) and Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia.

Stow began his career in education 37 years ago as a kindergarten teacher with the Polk County School District in Florida. He joined Albemarle County Public Schools in 1992 as a fifth-grade

teacher at Brownsville Elementary School, also taught at Agnor-Hurt, Brownsville and Hollymead elementary schools and was an assistant principal for Henley Middle School. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Florida Southern College and a Master's Degree in Education Administration from James Madison University.

Stow is serving as Scottsville's interim principal for one year. The division will begin a search process for a new principal early next year and an important part of the search process will be providing opportunities for all Scottsville school community members to participate.

Additionally, during a special meeting held on June 30, the Board approved the appointment of LaRuth Ensley as the new principal of Henley Middle School and Joe McCauley as Hollymead Elementary School's new principal.

Ms. Ensley is succeeding Beth Costa, who became Monticello High School's principal on July 1. Ms. Ensley joins the division after serving for three years as the assistant principal of Falling Creek Middle School in Chesterfield County Public Schools. She previously chaired the English Department for Armstrong High School in Richmond Public Schools, and from 2006 through 2015, she was on the faculty of several community colleges and online universities.

Falling Creek Middle School has approximately 1,400 students, while Henley is the division's largest middle school, with nearly 900 students. Ms. Ensley has an extensive background in strategic planning, community outreach, and professional development with staff. She will bring strong interests in mentoring students and staff to Henley and in programs that build planning and organizational skills that prepare students for college and career success.

Ms. Ensley is working toward her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University, and she holds an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree from The George Washington University. She earned both a master's and an undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University. She began her career in education as an English teacher for Suffolk Public Schools in 2001.

Mr. McCauley joins Albemarle County Public Schools after having served as the principal of Ogden Avenue School in La Grange, IL, which is located about 15 miles southwest of Chicago. He led the implementation of increased rigor in the curriculum at the high-performing school; prioritized equity-based practices, including improved Response to Intervention systems of support for students; and joined with parents and teachers in expanding classroom technology resources.

McCauley is a 1997 undergraduate of the University of Kansas. He holds a master's degree in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University and a master's in Educational Leadership from Roosevelt University. He began his career in education as a Chicago Public Schools teacher for students in grades 5-12 and served nine years as a special education teacher at Molloy Education Center in Morton Grove, IL. Prior to becoming Ogden's principal, he served as an assistant principal supporting three elementary and middle schools.

McCauley is succeeding Craig Dommer, who has been appointed as the school division's Director of Instructional/Tiered Services.

School Board votes to retain the name of Mary Carr Greer Elementary School—Mary Carr Greer Elementary School will become the third school in Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) to retain its name after undergoing the school division's name review process. The Albemarle County School Board voted to retain the name at its July 14 meeting after having received the recommendation to do so from Superintendent Dr. Matthew Haas.

The advisory committee solicited community input on the school's name through two surveys and two public meetings, as well as through an engagement campaign at Greer that gave students the chance to voice their opinions throughout the process. The committee held its second public meeting on June 6, during which it discussed survey results and the research it had done on Mary Carr Greer. The committee received letters, emails, and phone calls, along with input from members of the Ivy Creek Foundation and a former student of Mary Carr Greer. All were in favor of retaining the school's name, and throughout the process, no one spoke against retaining the school's current name.

In its research, the committee found a 1948 Albemarle Training School (ATS) yearbook that was dedicated to Greer, its "beloved principal," stating that she had "kept before them the ATS motto, *Character, Courage and Perseverance*." Members of the Ivy Creek Foundation described the numerous civic groups to which Greer belonged that supported equality of education for all children.

Susie Lee, the chair of the advisory committee and a guidance counselor at the school, said of the committee's research: "Every contact that we had about Mrs. Greer throughout the public comment and research process showed us not only the undivided loyalty that she inspires in those who live in this community, but also the courageous approach she had to providing an equitable education to all students in this community, regardless of factors like race, gender, or socioeconomic status. What we know about Mrs. Greer is that she was the kind of person our school educators hope our students will exemplify."

The committee sent out two surveys to the Greer community prior to their final public meeting. The first survey of the two had 366 respondents, 305 of whom suggested retaining the name Mary Carr Greer. The second survey asked participants to choose from among four possible school names, including Mary Carr Greer, Blue Ridge, Hydraulic, and Gecko. That survey received 759 responses, 394 of which were from students. Almost 92% of the respondents said that their top choice for the school name was Mary Carr Greer Elementary.

Both surveys and other information related to the Greer name review process can be found on the [Greer Elementary School Naming Review](#) web page.

As a result of all of the information it gathered, the committee found that Mary Carr Greer's contributions align with the school division's values of equity, excellence, family and community, and wellness, as well as with the school's guiding principles, which state that Greer

is “fully committed to creating an equality of opportunity for every one of our children through an educational program focused on the individual student.”

The volunteer advisory committee included the school principal, Steve Saunders; Ms. Lee and three other Greer staff members; three parents; and three people who live in the school community, but do not have students attending Greer.

In total, 14 schools in ACPS were named after individuals when, in October of 2018, the school board directed that all 14 have their name evaluated by community advisory committees. The purpose of these name reviews is to ensure that all schools in ACPS have names that align with the school division’s values of equity, excellence, family and community, and wellness.

The six previous school name reviews also were conducted by volunteer community advisory committees, and in each instance, the superintendent supported the committee’s recommendation. To date, including last night’s decision, the school board has changed the name of four schools and retained the name of three. Summaries of all school name reviews are maintained on the school division’s [School Names Under Review](#) web page.

Community members with questions or suggestions about the name review process may consult the school division’s [School Naming Review](#) website or email the school division at SchoolNamingReview@k12albemarle.org.